

Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea

MEDIA KIT

The gateway to Kentucky arts and artisans in the Folk Arts & Craft Capital of Kentucky!



The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea offers a wide range of Kentucky's outstanding artisan works for sale in its galleries, exhibition and retail areas. Whether on display in a themed gallery exhibition or in the shopping areas, you will find unique items with information about the artisans and the materials and processes used.

The Center has superbly crafted glass, ceramics, metal and forged steel, sculpture, note cards, works from wood, fine furniture, and jewelry, as well as fiber and paper, specialty foods, music and books. Two-dimensional works include oil and watercolor paintings, pastels, drawings, photographs and prints.



The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea offers full traveler services and information. Demonstrations by artisans are held every Saturday throughout the year from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to bring the creative process to light for visitors. The Center also offers food tastings, book signings by Kentucky authors, and musical performances.



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The Kentucky Artisan Center is located just off I-75 at Exit 77 at Berea, is open daily; year round from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Admission is free.



The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea is an agency in the Tourism, Arts & Heritage Cabinet of the Commonwealth of Kentucky

Shopping



At the Kentucky Artisan Center, visitors will find a wonderful selection of items created by over 800 Kentucky artisans. Items include handcrafted gifts such as scarves and bags, quilts, wooden kitchen utensils, garden sculpture, turned wooden bowls, furniture, ornaments and a wide range of functional and decorative pottery. There is always an exciting array of glass; a great selection of jewelry, sculpture, prints, paintings, and photographs from all across the state.

Gifts of all kinds abound, including delicious Kentucky Proud food products such as jams and jellies, sauces and mixes, honey and sorghum, and even Kentucky ham! Find an array of Bourbon products and themed gift baskets and hostess gifts - beautifully packaged for giving.

Choose from a wide selection of beauty products, books, musical recordings, and much more —all made by Kentucky artisans! Visit the Kentucky Artisan Center any time of year to “Give a Gift Made in Kentucky!”

Events & Exhibits



Weekly demonstrations

On Saturdays throughout the year, the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea features artisan demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. allowing visitors a first-hand view of the creative process. Musical performances, book signings and other events are held throughout the year.

2019 – 2020 Exhibitions

MAIN GALLERY EXHIBIT

A Home in Kentucky

Now through Nov 15, 2019

This exhibit showcases traditional Kentucky furniture, quilts, folk art and paintings by a variety of Kentucky artists. Arranged to portray a home interior, the furniture is made from native hardwoods by a number of wood artists and includes rocking chairs, benches, music stands and a dining room table and chairs by Mike Angel of Red Dog Chairs, as well as end tables and coffee tables by Joe Osolnik and Byron and John Marks.



Featured on the gallery walls are quilts in both contemporary themes and traditional patterns. Quilts in this exhibit were created by Janet Serrenho, Brenda Plaster and Glenna Blakely.

Also on display is a selection of sculptures, wall carvings and welcome sticks by Kentucky folk artist LaVon Van Williams of Lexington. His works are high and low relief carved and painted with bright colors to reflect his heritage and traditions.

LOBBY EXHIBIT

Pass it On: Works by Learnshop Instructors

Now through Oct. 31, 2019

This exhibit showcases works by over 50 Berea Learnshop Instructors in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional mediums and includes both books and music CD's.



Berea's Festival of Learnshops is a citywide festival held every July offering over 100 workshops from one day to weekend courses in a wide array of subjects and learning activity. This exhibit at the Center showcases the talent and skill of this year's talented Learnshop instructors.

Now in its 9th year, Berea's Learnshops offer two hour to four-day workshops led by outstanding professional artists, writers, musicians and craftspeople. Learn new skills and nurture your creativity in Berea and at the Kentucky Artisan Center every summer!

Come find items by over 800 Kentucky artists, authors and specialty food producers!



For the Traveler



Plan your visit with maps and brochures

The Center is open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily- year round - and is closed only on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Hours are 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Admission is always free.

The Center's staff provides travel information with brochures from across the state and highway maps. All front line staff are trained as travel information specialists and as retail sales personnel, providing hospitality and quality service.



The Kentucky Artisan Center has welcomed over 4 million visitors since opening in July of 2003 –

The Kentucky Artisan Center initially featured the work of 250 artists, and welcomed 130,000 visitors. Since then the Center has offered over 1,300 artist demonstrations, over 80 special exhibits, and in 2019, represents over 800 artists with an annual visitation of 300,000. To date the Kentucky Artisan Center has welcomed 4 million people - all of whom have experienced or purchased Kentucky art and enjoyed a meal in the Artisan Café and Grill. Visitors

signing the guest book represent all states in the U.S. as well as over 50 international countries. Visitation to the center increases significantly every year.

The Center's restrooms always have fresh cut flowers and have been declared "the cleanest and best designed rest rooms along I -75," by Dave Hunter, author of *Along I-75 Travel Guides*.





Artisan Café & Grill

Visitors enjoy Kentucky cuisine in the café with favorites such as fried catfish, corn pudding, Pork BBQ, salad bar and desserts including Derby Pie. The Artisan Café & Grill is a great place to join friends for a delicious meal.

Breakfast Fare (9 a.m. to 11 a.m.)

Sausage biscuit, bacon biscuit, breakfast burritos, cinnamon rolls, muffins, coffee

Entrees

Kentucky Hot Brown, Roast Pork Loin, Fried Catfish, Rotisserie Chicken, Meatloaf; BBQ Ribs Stuffed Cabbage Rolls and more!

Vegetarian Fare

Quiche, Tomato Pie, Eggplant Parmesan, Vegetarian Chili, Specialty Soups and Salads

Sides

Corn Pudding; Green Beans; Mashed Potatoes; mixed fresh vegetables, Fried & Steamed Zucchini, and more.

Desserts

Freshly made specialty pies and cakes, Kentucky Butter Cake, Buttermilk Pie, Kentucky Derby Pie, Bourbon Bread Pudding, muffins, cookies, and Sav's Ice Cream made in Lexington, KY.



Conference and Private Dining Rooms

The Center has a conference room and a private dining room available for meetings, community groups, workshops and special events. Each rents for a nominal fee. The spaces offer an easy interstate location, a beautiful space, fresh food, clean rest rooms and good service.

For more information, contact Elizabeth Strunk at 859/ 985-5448, ext. 221, or at Elizabeth.strunk@ky.gov



The Center's conference room (left) seats 25 and the private dining room (right) seats 48



The Private Dining Room preparing for a holiday dinner event

History of the Center



The idea for the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea began locally in Berea, the city designated by the Kentucky Legislature as the “Folk Arts & Craft Capital of Kentucky.”

Since Berea College began its crafts work program for students, Berea has been home to continuing craft traditions and to both traditional and innovative

artisans. The Center was envisioned as a way of making the work of Kentucky’s artisans and the city of Berea’s offerings in the numerous galleries and shops, easily accessible to travelers on this most heavily traveled interstate.

Visible from I-75, the Center was designed to serve as an example of Kentucky’s quality artistry. Designed by Lexington architects Charles Jolly and Carol Myers (Myers Jolly Architects), the building appears to be a cluster of small buildings not unlike weathered barn structures in the region. The Kentucky limestone used for the exteriors and much of the interior was quarried in Harrodsburg, Kentucky, and laid by Kentucky stonemasons under the direction of Bobby Cameron of Brodhead, Kentucky. Slate and copper roofs, and the interior’s exposed timbers and decking further the natural feel of the building.



The Kentucky Artisan Center, located at 200 Artisan Way, just off I-75 at Exit 77, opened on July 31, 2003, and is open to the public daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Admission is free.

For media visits, tours and additional information, contact Gwen Heffner at the Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea, 859/985-5448, gwen.heffner@ky.gov



While in Berea



The Boone Tavern is a LEED Gold Certified Green Hotel

Berea, the Folk Arts & Crafts Capital of Kentucky, continues its commitment to craft and the arts. Visitors can stroll along Main Street or in Old Town to visit the studios of working artists and enjoy the beauty of the Berea College Campus.

The City of Berea is home to craft studios, arts shops and galleries, coffee shops and cafés - all amid the beautiful foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Berea College's student-guided walking tours take visitors into Berea College Crafts workspaces where objects of beauty and craftsmanship are created. The city's *Festival of Learnshops* in July, offers a wide array of workshops by master craftspeople from beginning to advanced levels. Visitors can take two hour to three day workshops to experience the creative process first hand.

Berea also hosts several annual craft festivals and is home to the Kentucky Guild of Artists and Craftsmen. Music can be enjoyed throughout the year with summer carillon concerts, the annual fall *Celebration of Traditional Music Festival* and musical performances by Berea College students and faculty. Quilts come alive during the Berea Arts Council's *Quilt Extravaganza* weekend and there is hiking, theatre, contra dancing, a farmers market and many other festivals and events that offer both family fun and entertainment year round.

For more information go to: www.berea.com.



For the Media

- Executive Director: Todd Finley
Todd.finley@ky.gov
 - Location: 200 Artisan Way – just off I-75 at Berea Exit 77
Berea, Kentucky
 - The Kentucky Artisan Center at Berea opened in August of 2003
 - Hours: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. - 7 days a week
Café Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
 - Closed: Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day and New Year's Day
 - Number of Visitors to date: Over 4 Million
 - The Center sells only Kentucky artisan crafted works including jewelry, pottery, wooden items, fiber works, toys, furniture, sculpture, prints, cards, paintings, photographs, soaps and beauty products, music, foods, books and much more!
 - Artisan demonstrations are held every Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
 - Special exhibitions are held year round
 - Number of employees: 24 full time staff
 - Square footage: 25,000 sq. ft.
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For media visits and additional information, contact gwen.heffner@ky.gov

YouTube Videos:

[2017 Damon Farmer Sand Sculpture – 225 Year Celebration](#)



[Kentucky Governor's Award Video](#)

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